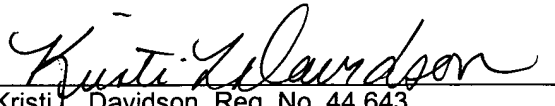


CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313 on December 15, 2004.


Kristi L. Davidson, Reg. No. 44,643

12/15/04

Date

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/711,717
Filed: September 30, 2004
Group Art Unit: 1762
Examiner: Unknown
Applicant: Yamasaki et al.
Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FORMING A PASSIVATED METAL LAYER
Attorney Docket: RAJ-025
Confirmation No.: 5716

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

December 15, 2004

Mail Stop Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please amend the subject application as follows.